of the people to make a second appeal to the High Court in Civil matters;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) how much work load is likely to be lessened by this decision of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Transferred to 10th August, 1993].

Assembly Elections in J & K

1482. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold Assembly Elections in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible, at present, to indicate any time frame for completion of elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Accident claims cases in T.N.

1483. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases relating to accident claims pending with district Courts and High Court in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) what action Government propose to take to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The various recommendations made by the Arrears Committee, which examined the problem of arrears in the Courts, covering various aspects like jurisdictional and procedural modifications/improvements in the judiciary; improvements in the infrastructural facilities including modernisation of office equipments in Courts and in day-to-day working of the Courts; setting up of Conciliation Courts and also making it applicable to proceedings before Motor Accidents Claims Tribunals etc., have been commended to all the concerned State Governments/High Courts including the Madras High Court for necessary follow-up action.

Lok Adalats

1484. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many Lok Adalats were held in the country and in Andhra Pradesh during 1992-93 and how many cases were settled; and

(b) what further steps are proposed for strengthening Lok Adalat Movement in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As per information received by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS) from the State Legal Aid and Advice Boards, as on 20-7-1993, 8,041 Lok Adalats have been organised in the country so far where 39,38,881 cases have been settled. As per information available with CILAS, 125 Lok Adalats were held in the State of Andhra Pradesh during 1992-93 where 11,622 cases were settled.

(b) The strengthening of the Lok Adalat movement in the country must necessarily depend on the initiative taken at the local levels, by the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards or Committees. CILAS provides the required motivation and encouragement by participation in functions and financial assistance. It is noticed that the movement gets the desired fillip where the judiciary actvely participates because of greater public confidence but in States where the constitution of the Boards|Committees does not include the judiciary the degree of success is not as satisfactory. Even in such States if the judiciary participates the results are encouraging. Efforts are on to persuade such State Governments to revise their schemes.

Constitutionality of the Indian Divorce Act, 1869

1485. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has referred to the Law Ministry the Constitutionality of the Indian Divocre Act, 1869 for making suitable amendment therein;

(b) if so, when the reference was made and what action has been taken thereon so far; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay if any and by when suitable action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, in August, 1990 the Government received a Report submitted by the Arrears Committee (Commonly known as the Malimath Committee) constituted in pursuance of a resolution passed in the Chief Justices Conference 1987, inter-alia recommending as under:—

"Section 17 of the Indian Divorce Act which required confirmation of the decree of divorce passed by District Judge by a special Bench consisting of three Judges should be deleted and instead a right of appeal be provided to a Single Judge of the High Court".

On 3rd December, 1991, Government sought the views/comments of the various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations on certain recommendations of the Committee including the above recommendation. So far only 16 State Governments have furnished their views. A decision in the matter would be taken only after the receipt of views of the remaining State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations.

Audit of funds of political parties

1486. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a legislation to the effort that the political parties would submit their fund collections to a full audit and donations to political parties would be made only through cheques; and

(b) if so, by when the proposed legislation is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Proposals from foreign companies for production non-conventional energy

1487. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from foreign companies